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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Aida Hod...[3] (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/201 of 22 December 2011 as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[2] which, inter alia, recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, stressed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, stressed also the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, expressed deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[2] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Sahel region, and called for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of this, for efforts to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, which should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources,

Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions characterized by recurrent long spells of drought, flooding, increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the restoration of degraded lands in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting that avoiding additional land degradation while restoring degraded land is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

Noting also the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to as well as the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[4] while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, including its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Recalling its high-level meeting on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication",

Welcoming the organization of the second Scientific Conference of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, on the theme "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas", to be held from 4 to 7 February 2013 in Fortaleza, Brazil,

Noting efforts made by the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Meteorological Organization, in collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies and relevant United Nations offices, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, to organize and hold a high-level meeting on national drought policy in Geneva in March 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/201 and on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[5]

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate, with the assistance of the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

3. *Reaffirms* its resolve, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,[1] to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008-2018), including by mobilizing adequate, predictable and timely financial resources, notes the importance of mitigating the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought, including by preserving and developing oases, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality and improving water management in order to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication, encourages and recognizes in this regard the importance of partnerships and initiatives for the safeguarding of land resources, and also encourages capacity-building, extension training programmes and scientific studies and initiatives aimed at deepening understanding and raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management policies and practices;

4. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

6. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts under way to strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and in this context takes note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification, land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the Convention;

7. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations, to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

8. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the

[5] A/67/295.

Convention and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of these stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Global Environment Facility, in further enhancing resource allocation during future replenishments, to consider increasing allocations to the land degradation focal area, depending on the availability of resources;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.